

REG. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes 100%
No -
Not sure -

P1. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a strong Democrat, not very strong Democrat, strong Republican, not very strong Republican, an Independent, or some other political party? **[IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER]** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Strong Democrat 27%
Weak Democrat 11
Independent / Closer to the Democrats 6
Independent 13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans 6
Weak Republican 14
Strong Republican 22

DEMOCRAT (NET) 39%
INDEPENDENT (NET) 25
REPUBLICAN (NET) 36

DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET) 45%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET) 42

Q1C. Some people say that addressing the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities. Do you agree or disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? **[IF AGREE]** And do you strongly or just somewhat agree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? **[IF DISAGREE]** And do you strongly or just somewhat disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? **[IF DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you lean toward agreeing or disagreeing that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
Strongly agree	58%	58%	56%	56%	60%	55%	56%	52%	52%	55%	52%	54%
Somewhat agree	23	23	22	25	24	26	26	26	25	24	27	23
Somewhat disagree...	10	11	12	11	9	9	10	10	13	12	12	13
Strongly disagree	3	3	4	4	2	5	3	6	5	4	5	5
Don't know/Refused ..	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
AGREE (NET)	81%	82	79	81	84	81	82	79	77	79	79	77
DISAGREE (NET)	14	14	16	15	11	15	13	16	18	16	17	18

Q2C. Thinking about our national debt over the last few years, would you say your level of concern about our national debt has: **[IF NO CHANGE/DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you say that your level of concern about our national debt has probably increased a little or probably decreased a little over the last few years?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
Increased a lot	56%	55%	52%	53%	56%	54%	53%	49%	48%	50%	48%	49%
Increased a little	28	28	29	28	27	28	28	28	29	27	31	30
Decreased a little	6	4	5	4	6	6	5	7	6	7	6	6
Decreased a lot	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	3
No change	7	7	8	9	6	7	8	9	9	9	8	8
Don't know/Refused ..	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	5
INCREASED (NET)...	83%	83	81	81	83	82	81	77	77	77	78	79
DECREASED (NET) .	7	7	8	7	7	8	7	10	10	11	9	8

Q3C. Thinking about our national debt over the next few years, do you expect the problem to get: **[IF THE SAME/DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, do you think the national debt problem will probably get a little better or probably get a little worse over the next few years?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
Much better.....	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%	11%	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%	13%
Somewhat better	16	18	19	18	16	17	19	21	22	24	23	18
Somewhat worse	29	28	26	30	26	31	25	29	28	25	24	24
Much worse	40	40	40	37	42	35	38	33	32	33	34	38
No change	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Don't know/Refused ..	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5
 BETTER (NET).....	 26%	 27	 28	 28	 26	 28	 31	 32	 35	 37	 37	 31
WORSE (NET)	69	67	66	67	69	66	63	61	60	58	58	62

Q4C. When it comes to addressing our national debt, would you say things in the United States are heading in the right direction or do you think things are off on the wrong track? **[IF NONE/DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you say that things in the United States are probably heading in the right direction or probably off on the wrong track when it comes to addressing our national debt?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
Right direction -												
Strongly	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	15%	14%	16%	16%	17%	18%	16%
Right direction -												
Somewhat.....	18	18	17	19	17	16	20	21	24	24	21	21
Wrong track -												
Somewhat.....	20	20	21	22	20	21	18	21	20	17	21	17
Wrong track -												
Strongly	47	46	46	44	47	44	43	38	36	38	37	42
Neither/Mixed	*	1	*	1	1	*	1	*	*	*	1	1
Don't know/Refused ..	2	2	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4
 RIGHT DIRECTION												
(NET)	30%	31	29	30	29	31	35	37	40	41	39	36
WRONG TRACK												
(NET)	67	66	67	66	67	65	61	59	57	55	58	59

Q5C. And when it comes to our national debt, do you think it is an issue that the President and Congress should spend more time addressing or less time addressing? And is that a lot **[MORE/LESS]** or a little **[MORE/LESS]** time? **[IF THE SAME AMOUNT/DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you say the President and Congress should probably spend more time addressing the national debt or probably spend less time addressing the national debt?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
A lot more time	55%	55%	52%	53%	57%	56%	52%	49%	49%	50%	49%	51%
A little more time.....	30	30	29	31	28	27	31	31	32	32	33	30
A little less time.....	4	5	6	5	4	5	4	6	6	6	5	8
A lot less time	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
The same amount of												
time.....	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	2
Don't know/Refused ..	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	5
 MORE TIME (NET) ...	 85%	 85	 81	 84	 85	 83	 83	 80	 81	 82	 82	 81
LESS TIME (NET)	8	9	10	9	8	10	9	11	11	9	10	12

Q6C. And when it comes to our national debt, how optimistic or pessimistic are you that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years? [IF TOTALLY MIXED/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say you lean toward being optimistic or lean toward being pessimistic that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>
Very optimistic	8%	9%	8%	8%	7%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	12%	9%
Somewhat optimistic ..	30	28	28	30	31	30	30	34	30	36	34	34
Somewhat pessimistic	32	32	32	34	28	33	28	29	30	26	26	26
Very pessimistic	26	25	26	23	28	22	25	21	22	22	22	24
Neither/Mixed	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know/Refused ..	2	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
OPTIMISTIC (NET) ...	38%	37	37	38	38	40	41	44	42	47	45	43
PESSIMISTIC (NET) ..	57	57	58	57	56	55	53	50	52	48	49	50

Q7. As you may know, economists from across the ideological spectrum agree that the rising national debt can increase inflation and interest rates, which makes things like goods, services and transportation more expensive for consumers.

How concerned are you that the national debt's effect on inflation is increasing your own cost of living, such as prices for things like groceries, energy, housing and other everyday expenses?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very concerned	57%	55%	54%	55%	56%	54%	55%	48%
Somewhat concerned	35	36	36	36	37	38	36	41
Not that concerned	6	6	7	7	5	7	7	7
Not concerned at all	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	3
CONCERNED (NET)	92%	91	90	92	93	92	90	90
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	8	9	10	8	7	8	10	10

Q8. How concerned are you that the national debt's effect on interest rates is contributing to higher borrowing costs, such as credit card interest, car loan rates, mortgage rates and other personal loans?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very concerned	49%	47%	45%	44%	48%	48%	47%	41%
Somewhat concerned	40	41	42	44	42	40	39	44
Not that concerned	8	8	11	9	7	9	10	11
Not concerned at all	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
CONCERNED (NET)	89%	89	86	88	90	88	86	85
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	11	11	14	12	10	12	14	15

Q9. How important is the cost of living and overall affordability to your vote in the 2026 elections?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very important	66%	69%	66%	66%	68%	66%	67%	64%
Somewhat important	28	25	26	27	26	27	25	28
Not too important	4	4	5	4	4	5	6	5
Not at all important	1	1	1	1	*	1	1	1
I do not plan to vote in 2026	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	2
IMPORTANT (NET)	94%	94	92	93	95	92	91	92
NOT IMPORTANT (NET)	5	5	6	5	4	6	7	6

Q10. Over the past month, do you think candidates for political office are talking enough about the national debt and its impact on the cost of living?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	30%	28%	28%	30%	25%	28%	29%	30%
No, candidates should talk about this more	70	72	72	70	75	72	71	70

Q11. Is a candidate having a plan to address the national debt a factor in deciding whether you would support them in the 2026 election?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, definitely	35%	34%	29%	35%	35%	36%	37%	31%
Yes, probably	49	52	53	49	52	47	46	52
No, probably not	13	12	15	13	10	15	15	14
No, definitely not	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3
YES (NET)	84%	86	82	85	87	83	83	83
NO (NET)	16	14	18	15	13	17	17	17

Q12. How likely are you to support a candidate this year that has a clear plan to address the national debt?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Much more likely	41%	41%	37%	39%	40%	42%	44%	38%
Somewhat more likely	54	55	57	55	55	52	49	55
Somewhat less likely	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	4
Much less likely	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
MORE LIKELY (NET)	95%	96	94	94	95	94	93	93
LESS LIKELY (NET)	5	4	6	6	5	6	7	7

Q13. Would you consider supporting a candidate from a political party you don't usually support if that candidate had a clear plan to address the national debt?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, I would consider it	71%	73%	73%	74%	75%	74%	74%	72%
No, I would never consider it	29	27	27	26	25	26	26	28

Q14. Interest rates in the U.S. have risen significantly as the national debt soars above \$40 trillion, and this year the government will spend more than \$3 billion a day on interest costs. Do rising interest rates and costs make it more urgent for lawmakers to form a fiscal commission to reduce our debt and lower our interest burden?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>
Extremely urgent	42%	33%
Very urgent	35	35
Somewhat urgent	21	28
Not at all urgent	3	4
URGENT (NET)	76%	68
NOT URGENT (NET)	24	32

Changing topics slightly...

Q15. Did you know that if lawmakers in Congress do not act by 2032, there would be an automatic 22% benefit cut for all current and new retired Social Security beneficiaries, regardless of age or income?

Yes, I was aware	44%
No, I was not aware	56

Q16. As you may know, if Congress doesn't act, current and future Social Security beneficiaries will receive an immediate 22% benefit cut starting in 2032. The U.S. Senators elected this November will be in office at that time. Do you think candidates this year should clearly explain their plans to prevent automatic cuts to Social Security benefits?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, definitely	70%	77%	74%	75%	76%	76%	74%	70%
Yes, probably.....	24	20	21	21	19	21	21	25
No, probably not	5	2	4	2	3	2	3	4
No, definitely not.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
YES (NET).....	94%	97	95	96	96	97	95	95
NO (NET).....	6	3	5	4	4	3	5	5

Q17. Over the past month, do you think candidates are talking enough about plans to prevent automatic Social Security benefit cuts?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Aug 26</u>	<u>July 26</u>	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	19%	20%	21%	21%	19%	22%	22%	22%
No, candidates should talk about this more	81	80	79	79	81	78	78	78

Q18. As you may know, without action by lawmakers, Social Security benefits will be automatically reduced by 22% for all recipients in 6 years during the terms of Senators elected this November. Do you support or oppose a bipartisan commission that would put a plan in place to prevent automatic cuts to Social Security?

	<u>Sep 26</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>
Strongly support.....	57%	53%
Somewhat support	29	23
Somewhat oppose	8	10
Strongly oppose	6	14
SUPPORT (NET)	86%	76
OPPOSE (NET)	14	24

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

D100. What is your gender?

Male	47%
Female.....	53
Self-describe.....	*

DAGE. What is your age?

18-29	17%
30-44	24
45-54	17
55-64	18
65+	23

DRACE. To ensure we have a representative sample, please indicate your race. [IF BLACK/WHITE/OTHER] Do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Black/African-American	12%
White/Caucasian	75
Hispanic/Latino	10
Asian-American	2
Native American	1
Other.....	1

D102. What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?

Did not complete high school	3%
Graduated high school	26
Attended technical/vocational school	5
Attended some college but no degree	18
Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	13
Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree	28
Obtained Master's, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.)	8

D105. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as:

Very liberal	15%
Somewhat liberal	16
Moderate	37
Somewhat conservative	17
Very conservative	15

D108. Which of the following best describes you and your family?

Working class	31%
Lower middle class	18
Middle class	39
Upper middle class	8
Affluent	1
I'm not sure	3

REGION. What state do you live in?

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	21

REGION9. Coded National Region [9-WAY]

New England	5%
Middle Atlantic	13
East North Central	16
West North Central	7
South Atlantic	21
East South Central	6
West South Central	11
Mountain	7
Pacific	14